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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD - APPENDIX

June 25

and Central America with a population of roughly 40 million people than it does to send money and equipment to the Far East which sooner or later will eventually fall into the hands of the Reds anyway.

By making your voices heard in this field you will be performing a service of untold benefit to your country. With organization you will soon have influence with your Congressman and Senators. Your position can be made known to them. Let them know how strongly you feel about such matters. The Polish-American societies, the Ahepa in the case of the Greeks, the countless Jewish societies, all have influence. You can also. Your constitution calls for membership barring no one because of race, color, or creed. You can present your views as American veterans first but secondly you can be very proud of your origin and you can certainly raise your voice in protest to policies which you consider unwise in the foreign field just as you have in the past and you are still doing in the case of injustice here at home.

One word in parting—I would encourage you not to stop growing. There are Spanish-speaking populations in New Jersey, Philadelphia, West Virginia, New York, Florida. Go there, do not stop growing. Your country and your people need you.

Commencement Address Delivered by  
Hon. John Marshall Butler at the University of Baltimore

#### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

HON. JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER  
OF MARYLAND

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES  
Wednesday, June 25, 1958

Mr. BUTLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the Appendix of the Record a speech which I delivered on June 12, 1958, at the commencement exercises of the University of Baltimore.

There being no objection, the address was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN MARSHALL BUTLER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE, BALTIMORE, MD., JUNE 12, 1958

Commencement marks a turning point in your lives. First, it signifies that you have creditably completed a difficult task. I want to congratulate each of you on a job well done. Your parents, relatives, and friends who are here assembled can take pride in your accomplishments.

However, the true significance of this happy occasion lies in the opportunities which are now before you. Opportunities to live useful lives and to meet the responsibilities of good citizenship. Though you are confronted with problems which no other generation has ever faced the opportunity is before you to create and stimulate a far better world through the use of science and technology.

In trying times it is often difficult for us to maintain our perspective. In this period, may I offer for your thoughtful consideration this quotation:

"The present moment is one of great distress. But how small will that distress appear when we think over the history of the last 40 years: a war, compared with which all other wars sink into insignificance; inflation, such as the most heavily taxed people of former times could not have conceived; a debt larger than all the public debts that ever existed in the world added together."

Now and then there has been a stoppage, now and then a short retrogression; but as to the general tendency there can be no doubt. A single breaker may recede, but the tide is evidently coming in."

My friends, this is not a statement of recent vintage. It appeared in the Edinburgh Review for January 1830—128 years ago. I shall continue to quote further excerpts from this most unusual editorial:

"If we were to prophesy that in the year 1930, a population of 60 millions, better fed, clad, and lodged than the English of our time, will cover these islands . . . that machines constructed on principles yet undiscovered, will be in every house, that there will be no highways but railroads, no traveling but by steam; that our debt, vast as it seems to us, will appear to our great-grandchildren a trifling encumbrance, which might easily be paid off in a year or two, many people would think us insane. . . . If any person had told the Parliament which met in perplexity and terror after the crash in 1720, that in 1830 the wealth of England would surpass all their wildest dreams . . . that men would sail without wind, and would be beginning to ride without horses—our ancestors would have given as much credit to the prediction as they gave to Gulliver's Travels."

In other words, in every age progress has been made, but few people seem to reckon with the possibility that the improvements of the next generation might be even more superlative. From many quarters today we are told that society has reached a turning point; that we have seen our best days. So said all who have come before us, and with just as much apparent reason.

This document, written in 1830, concluded with a statement of the responsibilities of government and each individual citizen which are still applicable. I commend it to you. It said and I quote:

"It is not by the intermeddling of . . . the omniscient and omnipotent state, but by the prudence and energy of the people, that England has hitherto been carried forward in civilization; and it is to the same prudence and the same energy that we now look with comfort and good hope. Our rulers will best promote the improvement of the people by strictly confining themselves to their own legitimate duties—by leaving capital to find its most lucrative course, commodities their fair price, industry and intelligence their natural reward, idleness and folly their natural punishment—by maintaining peace, by defending property, by diminishing the price of law, and by observing strict economy in every department of the state. Let the Government do this—the people will assuredly do the rest."

My friends, I hope you will follow the prescription I have just read as a guide to your approach to the problems of government at every level—local, State, and Federal.

I have every confidence that you will meet the challenge of these uncertain days. Many have forgotten that the Constitution was written by a group of exceptionally young men. Alexander Hamilton, whose genius contributed so much to our Republic, was only 32 when he became the first Secretary of the Treasury. He wrote the Federalist Papers in collaboration with James Madison and John Jay when he had only attained the age of most of this distinguished graduating class. These documents, as you and I so well know, are the source of many of the concepts which underlie the freedoms written in the Constitution. These documents have provided the foundations of liberty—the key to our progress, past and future.

The results of liberty in the United States have been a constant improvement in ideas and research and methods in every field of intellectual activity, in science, in warfare, and in knowledge. It has trained people to think for themselves and cultivate self-reliance. The American system, by offering

incentive and reward and liberty, has steadily increased the productivity of the American workman and the American farmer, and thereby raised his standard of living.

It is not so much that you and I are free and enjoy being free. It is that millions of Americans are free, and the competition of their ideas causes the best to rise to the surface and finally prevail. Our business system is such that any person can have an idea, but also can have the idea tested without the prior approval of some government functionary. Not so in Soviet Russia.

In the short span of 40 years Russia has been transformed from a backward primitive country into an industrial nation, second only to ourselves. This position was achieved by complete subordination of the individual to the state. Religion, with its moral and ethical concepts, has been ridiculed and discouraged.

On the contrary, the unique feature of our way of life is that it is motivated by the decisions we make as free individuals. In government, at every level, leaders are chosen, and their policies reflect the wishes of the electorate. In our economy consumers by their patronage decide what shall be produced and in what quantity. Free markets rather than the decisions of government determine who shall prosper and who shall fail.

However, my friends, with the industrialization of Russia, I see signs of hope for the future. A new educated class of managers and professional people has arisen, to operate the complex equipment which she is building. They want the material fruits of their efforts for the Russian people. They may not always be willing to devote their lives to the glory of a monolithic state bent only on world conquest. To maintain their professional position they must, of necessity, read Western scientific and technical journals. It is becoming even more difficult to hide the truth from Russia's technicians and managers. I have confidence that truth will finally prevail and that the threat of nuclear war will be ultimately removed.

In this new competition to maintain supremacy over Russia and her satellites in every field, we must never relax our efforts to win the minds and hearts of people everywhere to freedom, individual liberty, and human dignity. We must win this fight so that the millions of people emerging from colonialism in Africa and Asia will freely wish to follow the example of the American Revolution rather than the Russian revolution.

The accomplishment of this goal must be largely entrusted to you—the college graduates of 1958. You leave here with a splendid education and training to qualify you for the task ahead. Your families, teachers, and religious leaders have instilled those moral values which will make this effort challenging and worth while. Your generation must maintain our industrial and military supremacy without loss of individual freedom and human values.

Many of you will enter military service. American military forces have been victorious not because of better discipline particularly, but because each serviceman has been encouraged to meet each problem by thinking for himself. I might also remind you that Alexander Hamilton was a soldier throughout the Revolutionary War and led the final American charge which resulted in the British surrender at Yorktown in 1781. He was then in his early twenties.

In the years ahead, however, in your business and professional lives, you too have a unique opportunity to lead your fellows and with them to fulfill the obligations of good citizenship. Two years ago 62 million Americans voted, more than ever before; yet they represented only 60 percent of those entitled to vote. There are millions of people living behind the Iron Curtain who would give their lives for the free opportunity to vote, a privilege which you and I enjoy as American citizens.

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